



Department of State

 CIA
**INCOMING
TELEGRAM**

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 E.O. 12065: RDS-1 10/1/01 (MURPHY, RICHARD W.) OR-M
 TAGS: MASS, PEPR, SA
 SUBJECT: SAUDI STRATEGY IN EVENT CONGRESS VEToes AWACS

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT.)

 2. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE CHIEF TURKI BIN FAISAL COMMENTED
 TO CLOSE AMERICAN FRIEND SEPTEMBER 30 THAT CROWN PRINCE
 FAHD IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE FROM ROYAL FAMILY TO REACT
 ALONG FOLLOWING LINES IN EVENT CONGRESS VEToes ALL OR
 PART OF AIR DEFENSE ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE:

 (A) IF THE CONGRESS BLOCKS THE ENTIRE SALE, SAG PLANS TO
 GO IMMEDIATELY TO THE BRITISH AND FRENCH TO PROCURE
 NIMRODS AND MIRAGE FIGHTERS (INITIALLY THE MIRAGE 2000
 AND LATER THE MIRAGE 4000). THIS IS CONSIDERED NECES-
 SARY TO CALM ANTICIPATED ADVERSE SAUDI CRITICISM OF THE
 US-SAG RELATIONSHIP. IN THE MEANTIME, USAF AWACS OPERA-
 TIONS IN KINGDOM WOULD BE PHASED OUT AS RAPIDLY AS
 POSSIBLE.

 (B) IF THE CONGRESS BLOCKS ONLY THE AWACS PORTION OF
 THE PACKAGE, THE CROWN PRINCE WILL LIKELY CLAIM CREDIT
 FOR SUCCESSFUL ACQUISITION OF THE OTHER ITEMS AND ANNOUNCE
 HE IS PUTTING THE ISSUE OF RADAR AIRCRAFT UNDER STUDY.

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State Dept. review completed

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THE SAUDIS MIGHT WAIT FOR A YEAR BEFORE TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION, IN THE HOPE THAT USG WOULD RESUBMIT AWACS TO CONGRESS FOR SALE TO THE KINGDOM. IN THE MEAN- TIME, USAP WOULD BE REQUESTED TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT AWACS OPERATIONS HERE.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE TURKI TO BE A KNOWLEDGEABLE AND ACCURATE REPORTER ON THIS SUBJECT. MURPHY

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